GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2403
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2008
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
Nikhil Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of Vice-Chancellors of agricultural universities was held recently to discuss proposals to transform agricultural research and education;

(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof;

(c) whether the agricultural universities have been asked to take concrete steps to make agriculture education learner centric and to enhance research and educational capabilities; and

(d) if so, the achievements made by the agricultural universities in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) Yes, Sir.This year`s annual Vice-Chancellors` Conference was held on January 19-20, 2008.

(b) The major issues discussed in the conference were climate change, bio-reources, quality assurance in agricultural education, academic regulations, personnel policies, curricula revision, National Eligibility Test, faculty competence, intellectual property management and modernization of research infrastructures of agricultural universities.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A total of 183 experiential learning units have been established for facilitating experiential learning towards imparting an appropriate blend of knowledge, skill and attitude to the students and fostering need-based partnership and linkages. Also, 28 niche area of excellence units have been established in order to enhance the performance and visibility of agricultural universities by augmenting their strategic strength in specific niche area of research and education. The revised course curricula as recommended by the 4th Deans` Committee has been largely implemented.Also, suggestions and recommendations made in the conference have been feasibly incorporated in the XIth five year plan document of the Education Division of Indian Council of Agricultural Research.